

THE Present Interest OF TANGIER.

Tangier is a pleasant City as any in the world, in a most wholesome Air, pure and free from all Infection, scituate in a most rich and fruitful Soil, able to yield all things needful to the life of man. There is no pleasure or delight, but this Country, if open, would afford to the Inhabitants, without the assistance of Foreign Nations. The Air is temperate, and cool'd with the annual Brises in the Summer, called *Etesian* Winds; and often purg'd from the Distempers, which otherwise might raign there, by the Easterly and Westerly winds. By this means it happens that it is neither very hot in the Summer, nor excessive cold in the Winter, but temperate, and agreeable with the disposition of our humane bodies. The *Moors* thereabouts live commonly to a great age: I have seen many amongst them about Eighty and Ninety years of age, very lusty. And since *Tangier* belong'd to *England*, none can say that ever the Plague hath been in that Citie, or that there hath been any Infection to carry away the Inhabitants, proceeding from the Air or Countrie. I confess many have died in this place, but most through their own Follies, Debaucheries, and Lust; which have destroyed here many of his Majesties good Subjects. If we could beg such a Wind from Almighty God, as to drive from thence these Infections, our *English* bodies would be very healthy, and *Tangier* would not be so odious to the Nation.

It was built by the *Phenicians*, if *Procopius* may be believed: for he tells us of a Pillar near *Tingi*, where these words were engraven in the Phœnician Language: *Nos fugimus à facie Josue filii Nun*. They were then the greatest Traders of the world; they chose this place for that purpose, to enrich themselves by that Art. Of all the Cities of the world, I know none better scituate for Command and Trade than this: It lies at the mouth and passage of all the *Levant-Trade*; no Ship can go in or out of the *Streights*, but *Tangier* must see it in the day; and in the night four or five Men of War cruising to and fro, some in, others out of the *Mediterranean*, may take all the Ships that sail that way: none can escape, without a strong Convoy, which would be too chargeable for the *Dutch*, *French*, and other Northern Merchants. If *Argier* were scituate where *Tangier* is now, all its Enemies must forbear Trading: and if *Tangier* were in the hands of the *Moors*, or of the *French*, or some other Prince strong at Sea, our Nation were undone, and our Merchants must bid farewell to the *Streights* in time of War. It is an easie matter for the Prince of *Tangier* therefore to command our Northern world, and to give Laws to *Europe* and *Africa*. The scituation of *Rome*, of *Carthage*, of *Constantinople*, of *London*, *Paris*, and other Imperial Cities, is nothing near so advantageous for that purpose as *Tangier*, if all things be considered.

The Countrie and Soil is fruitful in Corn, Honey, Cattle, Beef, Sheep, Goats, Camels, Horses, and Buffles. The Woods are full of Bees, and wild Beasts that have excel-

lent Furr. The Earth would bear good Wines of all sorts: for there are the sweetest Grapes of the world. Here are all manner of Eastern Fruits, Pomgranats, Oranges, Melons, Lemons, Figs, &c. So that if our *English* did husband the ground about *Tangier*, there is nothing that we fetch from *Spain, Italy, Greece, or France*, but we might have it there. It is the nearest Plantation that belongs to *England*, within a fortnight or three weeks sailing from the *Downes*.

So that if all things be considered, it seems no little wonder that *Tangier* hath not flourish'd since it is in the hands of such a powerful Nation as the *English*. But our unhappiness there, is not to be ascribed to the place, the Air, or Country, but to several other things which I shall here set down, not onely for the publick satisfaction, but that we may understand the true causes of the Peoples aversion for *Tangier*, and be better able to remove them for the future.

First, I shall begin with Religion. It was never there truly encouraged, but in the short Governments of the Earl of *Tiveot* and Colonel *Normood*. We can never expect a City will flourish, when all manner of Debaucheries, Profaneness, Irreligion, and Idolatry, shall have the liberty to appear without a check; when the Governours themselves have been the Examples to encourage the contempt of Vertue and Piety; when either openly or privately they have made it their business to ruine the Protestant Interest, and to call those persons in question for their Lives, who have been the greatest supporters of it. Let profane men think what they will, there was never yet a Citie or a Nation that ever prosper'd since the beginning of the world, that slighted the Religion of the Countrey. The *Romans* Prosperitie is ascribed by *St. Austin* to their sincere profession of their Idolatries. In *Tangier* too many have cast off all respects due to the God that hath made them, and minde nothing but Debauchery and Lewdness: others have hearkened to the solicitations of some Popish Priests, and make profession of that Religion, that they might by the means of their Absolutions, enjoy their Vices and filthiness without remorse of Conscience. For the benefit of Trade, and the encouragement of Strangers, all sorts of Religions should be allowed; but it is against all policie, that the English Subjects and Officers that receive from the King their Livelihood, should be suffered to change their Religions as often as their Garments, and wantonly to profess which they please. Not onely from hence, but from several other passages, Religion hath received great discouragements, to the open scandal of the Protestant Profession, and the dishonour of the Church of *England* in the eyes of the Nations round about.

The second cause of *Tangier's* unhappiness is, that most of the persons that have been sent thither, have never intended to inhabit there, but have been needy, and greedy, and have onely design'd to live there a while to fill their Purfes, and then to return for *England* with their Gains. By this means the soberer Inhabiters of *Tangier*, from whose industry and good behaviour onely we can reasonably expect Prosperity, impoverish the Citie, and discourage the rest. And many other inconveniencies proceed from hence, to his Majesties prejudice and of the place. To remedy this inconveniencie, such Laws should be enacted as might encourage sober men to live there, and discourage their departure upon such unhandfom terms as they commonly leave the Garison.

The third cause is, the difference and variance between Traders and Souldiers, encouraged too much by the Rulers covetousness, and the Citizens poverty and wants; and the unreasonableness of both, unwilling to comply with one another: For this discourageth all wealthy persons from inhabiting there, because they are not countenanced, nor have those Liberties which it hath pleased his Majesty to grant them. Some in a late Governours time, for frivolous accounts, have been called in question for their Lives, condemned contrary to all Law and Reason, to gratifie his displeasure, and others of the female Sex. These, and suchlike proceedings, ruine *Tangier*, and hinder it from that Prosperity and Wealth which it might easily attain to.

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Fourthly, *Tangier's* ill fate, since it is in the *English* hands, is due to the ill Reports spread abroad of the place by the vulgar sort, encouraged by the many persons dead there through their own miscarriages, and the ill usages of Popish Officers, who to my knowledge have valued more ten or twenty shillings at Pay-day, than the lives of their Souldiers; and have not treated them like men, much less like Christians. I have saved the lives of a great many of my Neighbours, when they have wanted necessities: for which good deed I have been reproved by some *Irish* Officers, who expected their Pay between their death and the following muster. The meanest Souldier must be encouraged, and not suffered to want when fallen into a sickness, though most times through his own intemperance. I dare affirm, and will offer to prove, that the unmercifulness of the Officers, and the neglect of Physicians and Apotnecaries, who though paid for that purpose by his Majesty, have killed the three parts of those that are dead in *Tangier*. I have sometimes buried three or four in a day, dead for want of that which his Majesty hath provided for them in case of sickness.

Fifthly, Another cause of *Tangier's* unhappiness, is, the strange Victories of the *Moors*, and the sad Massacre of the *English*, when they have gone out against them in the open field; with the vast opinion of valour they have gained amongst us, through our unskilfulness, or rather unadvisedness, and their successes. The Defeat of *Fines's* Party on the first third of *May*, and of my Lord *Tiveot* and his Company on the second, have struck a great terrour into our *English* hearts, and caused us to look upon a *Moor* as an excellent Souldier: but truly we are mistaken: I know their valour, and the strength of their Country, more than any that hath yet been in *Tangier*; for when I have been amongst the *Moors*, I have inquired many things concerning their Order, Militia, Numbers, &c. which I perceive we are ignorant of.

The greatest strength of the *Moors* Army, is in their Horse and Launce Foot: they have, Armed partly with Guns, and partly with Launces; but they have no great Guns, neither do they know how to manage them, nor carry them into the field. They fight in disorder, without Ranks or Files, the Horse by themselves, and the Foot by themselves. In set Battels, which have seldome been seen in this Country, the Horse make up the Van and the Rear, and the Foot the main Body; so that many times the Foot have nothing for them to do, but to destroy the Defeated Enemy, when the Horse hath routed and terrified them. But they are for Ambushes and Surprises; because their Countrey is very proper for that purpose. *Muley Arxid* overcame *Gayland* in this manner; as he had before ruined *Bembouka*. In this Country they have but little or no standing Army; all is made up of their several Divisions, or Companies of *Arabs* scattered about, who know their distinct Monkadems or Colonels under whom they are to fight, and to whom they are to repair in all Alarms. But they cannot subsist long in one place, because they have no Purveyours, nor other Provisions but what every Man brings with them, unless it be some small quantity which the place where they lie may afford them in case of necessity. They fight in the same manner as the *Roman* Authors have represented the Antient *Mauri*; neither are they better skill'd in martialling an Army, or fighting. Let any man that knows the Art of War compare them with us, and judge whether we may not be able to encounter them. If they have had successes against us, it is through our weakness and unpreparedness. We have marched against them onely with Muskets and Swords, and they have come against us with Horse and Launce: before our Men had time to discharge their Muskets, the Horse and the Launce had disordered our Men, broken their Ranks, and cut them all to pieces on a sudden. Had we a wall of Pikes to oppose against them, lined with Muskets, all the Horse of *Barbary* could do us no mischief, and we might safely march through the Country. An example we have lately had of a worthy Commander, *Sir Palmes Fairburne*, who made his Retreat with his Party without any considerable loss, onely with the assistance of a stand of Pikes, which kept off the *Moors* Horse, whilst his Foot fired upon them.

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Their Foot signifie nothing, their Horse have no Guns, or very few, onely Pistols. For their Infantry, they are unskilful in the managing of a Gun, neither have they the courage to stand a shot. The *Portugueses* seldome encounter'd with the *Moors*, but they had the Victory; therefore we must ascribe all our losses to the unadvisedness of our Commanders, and the disorder of our Men, and their want of those defensive Weapons which were able to keep off the fury of the *Moors* Horse. I dare ingage with five or six thousand English, against above twenty thousand *Moors*, if the English may have those Arms and Provisions that become them. Such is the weakness of this Country, that they can scarce bring together, under one Commander, twenty thousand men; for they are all divided under several heads of Families, since the death of the last Emperor of *Morocco*, and will not consent to set up a Monarch again. He therefore that hath the longest Sword gets the Victory, and the chief command. In this case, it is an easie matter for us to make an interest for our selves, by encouraging some party, and imitating the *Romans* policy, who never ventured against a Nation or People, but with the assistance of some of their own Souldiers. But it is our unhappiness, that we know not what is done amongst the *Moors*; we live in *Tangier* within the Walls and Lines, and unless we send a Flag of Truce for some pittiful business, we scarce see the face of a *Moor* in a years time, but at a distance, unless some of them come to bring Provisions to us. But we have never sent any to understand their Country, to search into their strength and dependancies, to examine their Interest, their inclinations, and those other things which we might improve to the advantage of *Tangier*. If any be sent for that purpose, he must not be a Noble-man; for they care not to see any greater state amongst them, than they observe. Their greatest Princes live as King *Evander* in *Virgil*. As they have a great respect for Clergy-men, I think such a one, if ingenious, and acquainted with the Language of the Countrey, might do much good, either to perswade them to a Trade and Peace with us, or to understand those particulars, which might cause us to secure the Interest of *Tangier*: that may be done either by Peace or War. But let us be well assured of this, that whilst we keep onely the Walls of *Tangier*, we shall onely spend Money; it will never bring any profit to our King, unless the Countrey be opened for us; which may be easily done, with little or no expence: and now, instead of several thousand pounds which His Majesty spends in the maintaining of *Tangier*, it shall not onely maintain it self, but yield a considerable Revenue to the Crown of *England*. For the future it may be rendered a dreadful City to the *Moors*, *Spaniards*, *Turks*, and *French*, and keep in the incursions of those of *Argier*. If *Tangier* were in that condition, Men would desire to go over and inhabit there, for the conveniency of Trade; some neighbour Factories would settle there, and we should vent all the Commodities of Wool which lye upon our hands, amongst the *Africans*; for now the *Dutch* and *French* furnish them. We should secure our Merchants from the Pyrates of *Argier*, for then they would not dare to break with us upon every slight occasion. When the *Vandals* Conquered *Africa*, it was stronger than it is now, and they had not the advantage of Guns as we have, yet they found but little difficulty to subdue the Inhabitants, who were then assisted by the *Romans* and *Grecians*.

I could offer many things for the good of *Tangier*, from my knowledge of the Country since the beginning of the world; but I know not how acceptable these things will be. I am certain, if a right course were taken, the Mole, which hath been long building, might be speedily finish'd; *Tangier* might be made the most prosperous and hopeful City that belongs to *England*; and it should repay to His Majesty all that hath been expended in the keeping of it since it was ours. If I be required, I shall be willing, not onely to give a further Account, but also to be instrumental in the promoting of the good of *Tangier*.